

FBIS 78

LONDON PAPERS COMMENT ON NIXON PRESIDENCY

L041209 (EDITORIAL REPORT) THE LONDON PAPERS FOR 4 NOVEMBER REFLECT IN EDITORIALS AND CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON GROWING U.S. PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

IN A BRIEF EDITORIAL THE CONSERVATIVE LONDON SUNDAY TELEGRAPH MENTIONS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION AND THE NEED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS NOMINATION OF MR FORD IN FAVOR OF A STRONGER REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENT.

THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES CARRIES A HENRY BRANDON WASHINGTON DISPATCH WHICH TAKES THE FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM THE ARTICLE AS ITS TITLE: "IN THE MINDS OF MORE AND MORE PEOPLE NIXON HAS DISHONORED THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY." THE DISPATCH DETAILS THE DISCOMFITURE SURROUNDING THE ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWING THE FIRING OF PROSECUTOR COX AND CONCLUDES: "VICE PRESIDENT AGENEW HAD PRESIDENT NIXON TO TELL HIM THAT HE SHOULD RESIGN WHEN HE HAD REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND HE HELPED HIM IN THIS CLIMACTIC DECISION BY ALLOWING HIM TO NEGOTIATE A DEAL THAT RELIEVED HIM OF THE THREAT OF FURTHER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION. BUT WHO IS GOING TO DO THE SAME FOR MR NIXON IF HE NEEDS SIMILAR ADVICE AND SIMILAR HELP?"

THE LONDON OBSERVER CARRIES AN ANTHONY SAMPSON WASHINGTON DISPATCH ENTITLED: "BRINK OF THE UNTHINKABLE," DEALING WITH THE CURRENT TALK OF PRESIDENTIAL IMPEACHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. SAMPSON CONCLUDES HIS SUMMATION OF EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND SUBSEQUENT REVELATIONS AS FOLLOWS: "IT IS A GAME IN WHICH NO ONE CAN WIN--SNAKES WITHOUT LADDERS. EVERYONE WANT TO SEE AN END TO IT; BUT EACH SCANDAL, LIKE THE TAPES, ITT, OR REBOZO, SEEMS TO LEAD ONLY TO OTHER SCANDALS; AND AS THE PLOTS THICKEN, AND THE CHARACTERS COME AND GO, IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT THE WHOLE DISRUPTION STEMS FROM ONE MAN, AND IMPEACHMENT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY OUT OF IT; SO THAT THE UNTHINKABLE GRADUALLY BECOMES THINKABLE."

THE ABOVE PAPER'S EDITORIAL DEALS WITH THE ACRIMONY DISPLAYED IN NATO CONCERNING THE ALERT OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S ALLEGED LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH ITS ALLIES: "MR NIXON'S USE OF THE NUCLEAR ALERT, ALLEGEDLY TO BLOCK THE DISPATCH OF SOVIET TROOPS TO EGYPT, WAS UNWISE. BUT EUROPEANS WHO ACCEPT THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR PROTECTION MUST EXPECT THAT IN A GENUINE WAR CRISIS THE U.S. WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE TO ACT WITH A SPEED WHICH PRECLUDES REAL CONSULTATION WITH OTHER NATO MEMBERS. A NUCLEAR DETERRENT CONTROLLED BY AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE WOULD SCARCELY BE CREDIBLE."

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "EVEN IF DR KISSINGER WERE KEPT IN OFFICE, ANY NEW OCCUPANT OF THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES, SUCH AS ARE NOW URGENTLY REQUIRED TO MAKE AND TO GUARANTEE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES, THE SIGNS ARE GROWING THAT MR NIXON'S PRESIDENCY CAN NO LONGER BE SAVED."

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